

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

September 2004



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## Unemployment rate edges down as students and seasonal workers leave begin to leave labor force

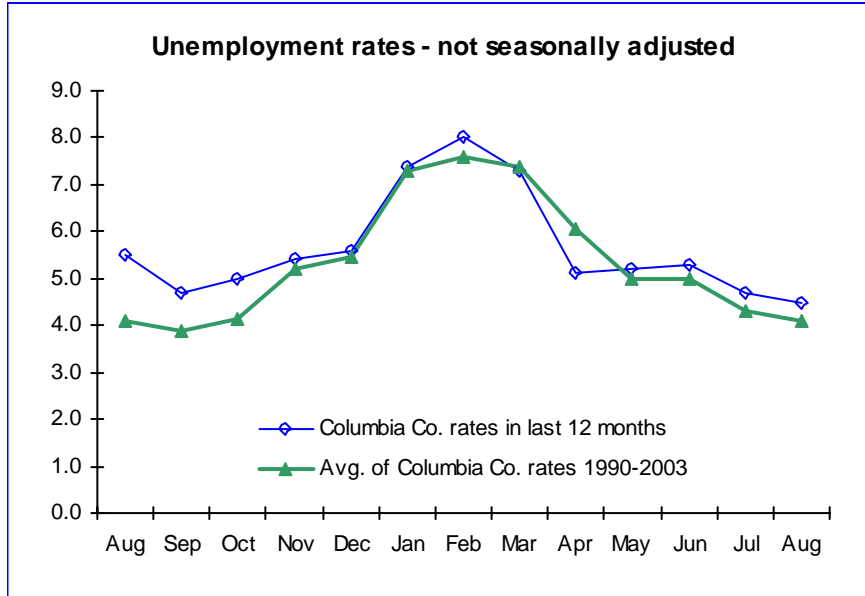
In August, **Columbia County's** unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percent. This decline is fairly normal for August, so the rate remained 0.4 percent above its typical August level just as it had been 0.4 percent above its typical July level. For the first time since last September, total nonfarm employment estimates are below year ago levels. From January to May, the education & health services sector had showed some signs of perking up. Subsequent summer months returned this sector to levels as far below year-ago levels as they had been last autumn.

In **Dane County**, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percent, as it usually does in August, so it remains 0.5 percent above the typical August rate just as it was 0.5 percent above

the typical July rate. Still, 2.3 percent was the lowest rate of any Wisconsin county. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have been above year-ago estimates for the last twelve months, and saw stronger-than-expected July and August growth that

ment estimates of the last twelve months for the professional & business services sector, which had seen mostly below-year-ago estimates from August 2003 to June 2004.

The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** jumped up 0.6 percent instead of falling as it usually does in August. The rate (6.0%) is further above typical than it has been from September through July, but not as far above typical as it was last August. From December through July, manufacturing employment estimates were below year-ago levels, but had appeared to be on a bumpy road to closing the gap. This August's estimated manufacturing job growth was so much smaller last August's growth that it negates the gains made since April.



## Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

|                        | Wisconsin |                |               | South Central |                |               | Columbia  |                |               | Dane     |                |               |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|
|                        | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004      | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change |
| Civilian Labor Force** | 3,143,800 | -32,150        | 21,200        | 462,900       | -3,360         | 600           | 29,200    | -300           | -210          | 293,100  | -1,860         | 1,420         |
| Employed               | 3,005,000 | -23,560        | 47,100        | 448,200       | -3,290         | 2,700         | 27,900    | -250           | 90            | 286,300  | -1,520         | 2,800         |
| Unemployed             | 138,800   | -8,590         | -25,880       | 14,700        | -80            | -2,150        | 1,320     | -50            | -300          | 6,800    | -340           | -1,370        |
| Unemployment rate (%)  | 4.4       | -0.2           | -0.9          | 3.2           | 0.0            | -0.4          | 4.5       | -0.2           | -1.0          | 2.3      | -0.1           | -0.5          |
|                        | Dodge     |                |               | Jefferson     |                |               | Marquette |                |               | Sauk     |                |               |
|                        | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004      | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change |
| Civilian Labor Force** | 50,200    | 290            | 0             | 43,100        | -910           | -640          | 7,000     | -80            | -90           | 40,200   | -500           | 110           |
| Employed               | 47,200    | -230           | 320           | 41,200        | -810           | -660          | 6,700     | -60            | 20            | 38,900   | -420           | 190           |
| Unemployed             | 3,000     | 520            | -320          | 1,930         | -100           | 20            | 350       | -20            | -110          | 1,270    | -80            | -80           |
| Unemployment rate (%)  | 6.0       | 1.0            | -0.6          | 4.5           | -0.1           | 0.1           | 5.0       | -0.3           | -1.4          | 3.2      | -0.1           | -0.2          |

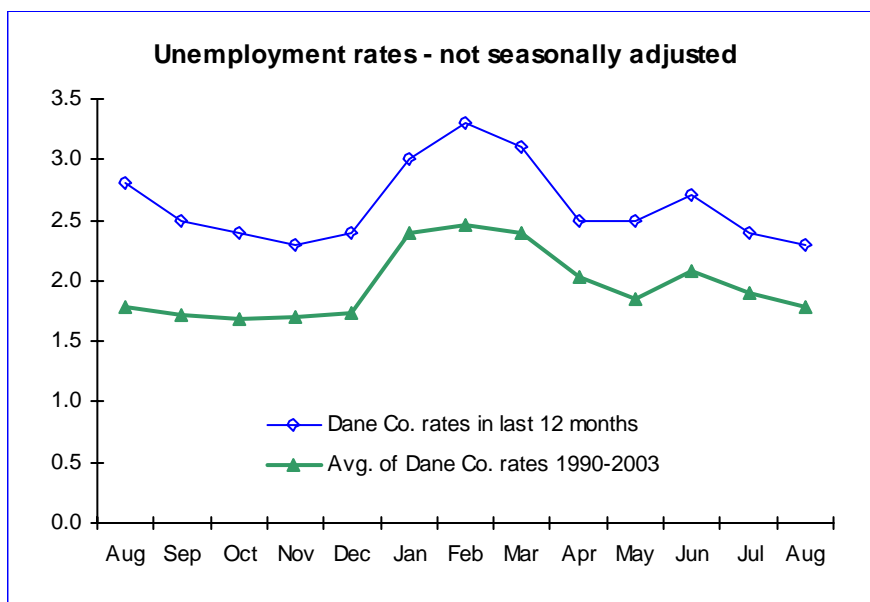
\*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

In **Jefferson County**, the unemployment rate fell more slowly than it usually does in August, so the August rate was further above typical than the July rate had been. Total non-farm employment estimates fell more sharply this August than last and remain below year-ago levels. Information, professional, business & other services grew briskly for the fifth month. While manufacturing employment estimates remain well below year-ago levels the gap between current and year-ago levels has been narrowing gradually since April.

**Marquette County's** unemployment rate did not fall quite as quickly as it usually does in August, so it was further above typical than it had been in July, yetx still much closer to typical than it had been from last August to this March. July and August were the only months of the last twelve when total nonfarm employment

estimates were above below year-ago levels. Summer growth in construction employment estimates has not been enough to make up for weak growth this spring. Manufacturing employment estimates have improved since November.

In **Sauk County** the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percent, which is slightly slower than the typical decline. While the July rate was slightly below typical, the August rate (3.2%) exactly matched the typical August rate. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates grew faster this summer than they had last summer, but sank lower this past winter than they had the previous winter. Manufacturing employment estimates increased



more slowly this July and August than they had last July and August, putting them as far below year-ago levels as they have been at any point in the last twelve months.

### Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

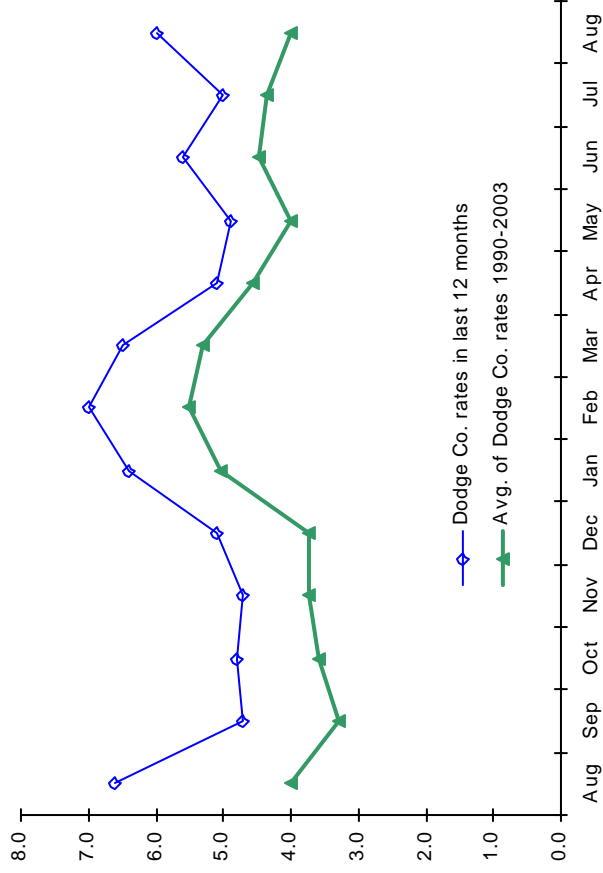
|                                | Wisconsin |                |               | South Central |                |               | Columbia |                |               | Dane     |                |               |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|
|                                | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004      | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change |
| Total jobs, all indstries*     | 2,851,300 | 4,700          | 46,500        | 435,300       | 940            | 1,320         | 21,200   | 100            | -30           | 300,900  | 800            | 1,700         |
| Const., min'g & nat. resources | 142,100   | -800           | 2,200         | 23,700        | -20            | 20            | 1,250    | -20            | 50            | 16,000   | 0              | 0             |
| Manufacturing                  | 524,500   | 2,500          | 10,800        | 60,300        | 190            | -840          | 4,900    | 40             | -80           | 28,100   | -200           | 300           |
| Trade (w wholesale & retail)   | 445,700   | 800            | 6,700         | 63,900        | 460            | -770          | 3,700    | 0              | -70           | 42,500   | 300            | -900          |
| Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities  | 106,400   | 800            | 200           | 10,600        | 10             | -750          | 790      | 20             | -50           | 6,900    | -200           | -100          |
| Financial activities           | 161,900   | -300           | 2,900         | 29,800        | -90            | -20           | 700      | 0              | 90            | 25,600   | -100           | -200          |
| Education & health services    | 376,100   | 200            | 10,900        | 45,100        | 120            | 1,090         | 2,200    | 50             | -60           | 30,300   | 0              | 900           |
| Leisure & hospitality          | 274,000   | 1,700          | 4,800         | 45,800        | 280            | 3,000         | 2,700    | 0              | 130           | 26,500   | 400            | 1,800         |
| Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs | 448,000   | 5,400          | 14,100        | 67,800        | 380            | 1,350         | 1,760    | -10            | 40            | 53,700   | 200            | 1,200         |
| Government                     | 372,600   | -5,600         | -6,100        | 88,200        | -390           | -1,800        | 3,300    | 0              | -80           | 71,300   | 200            | -800          |

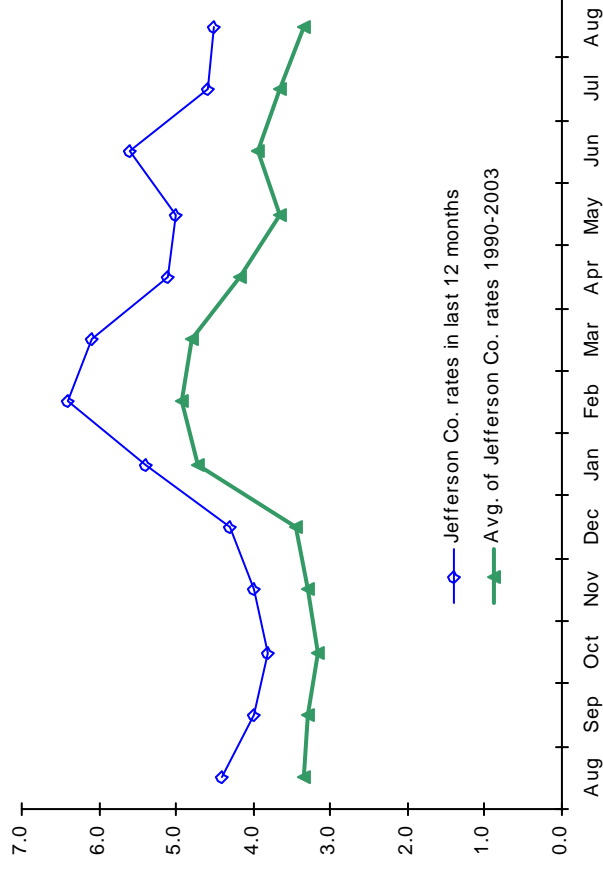
|                                | Dodge    |                |               | Jefferson |                |               | Marquette |                |               | Sauk     |                |               |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------------|---------------|
|                                | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004  | 1-month change | 1-year change | Aug 2004 | 1-month change | 1-year change |
| Total jobs, all indstries*     | 34,900   | 290            | 10            | 35,500    | -320           | -320          | 3,800     | 10             | -40           | 39,100   | 70             | -10           |
| Const., min'g & nat. resources | 2,300    | -10            | -10           | 1,480     | 10             | 70            | 260       | 10             | -80           | 2,400    | 0              | -20           |
| Manufacturing                  | 10,500   | 190            | -380          | 8,900     | 50             | -540          | 1,220     | 20             | 20            | 6,700    | 90             | -160          |
| Trade (w wholesale & retail)   | 4,300    | 90             | 340           | 6,200     | -110           | 0             | 490       | 0              | -10           | 6,700    | 180            | -140          |
| Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities  | 960      | 10             | -10           | 1,160     | -10            | -50           | 60        | 0              | 0             | 690      | -10            | -50           |
| Financial activities           | 850      | 0              | 10            | 950       | 0              | 30            | 150       | 0              | 10            | 1,510    | 10             | 50            |
| Education & health services    | 4,300    | 10             | 160           | 4,600     | 0              | 10            | 300       | 0              | 10            | 3,400    | 60             | 80            |
| Leisure & hospitality          | 2,700    | 50             | 140           | 3,500     | 80             | 210           | 490       | 0              | 30            | 9,900    | -260           | 710           |
| Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs | 3,600    | 10             | -50           | 5,200     | 120            | 350           | 240       | 0              | 20            | 3,300    | 70             | -220          |
| Government                     | 5,200    | -50            | -200          | 3,400     | -460           | -400          | 600       | -20            | -50           | 4,500    | -70            | -270          |

\*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

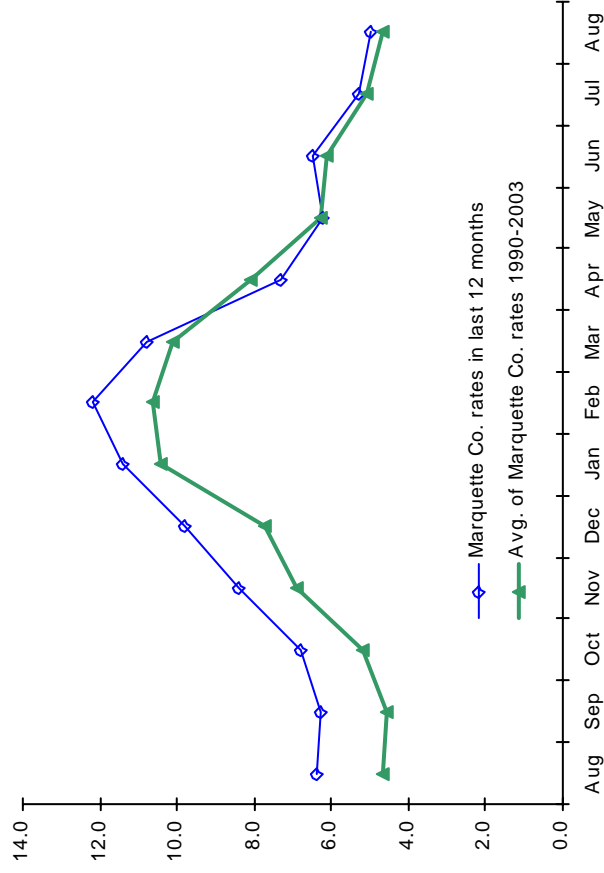
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



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